

THE PROCESS

CHURCH OF THE FINAL JUDGEMENT

OMEGA

Tuesday 6th April 1971

TEACHER'S COMMUNICATION TO ALL BRETHREN OF ALL CHAPTERS

Subject: PROCESS CHILDREN

The only differences between a Processean child and a Processean adult are those of experience and current ability.

Unless otherwise stated, directives and regulations laid down in TCs and PCs apply to Processeans of all ages in as far as it is possible to apply them.

The conduct, development and progress of Processean children within a Chapter (IP's) are the overall responsibility of the High Master, as with all other IP's.

The High Master appoints certain suitable Brethren to take immediate charge of the various aspects of the children's routine, where necessary. These include: daily living requirements (eating, sleeping, washing, etc.), Process education, general education, Activities and Rituals, work, discipline and general behaviour, recreation, etc. The extent to which any of these areas is the direct responsibility of one or both of the child's parents, is left to the discretion of the High Master, taking the intentions, abilities and general state of the parents into account.

IP children under seven years of age will not normally take their meals with IP adults, but separately, and at a different time so that those supervising the children's meals are free to attend Chapter meals. (Certain circumstances may sometimes make it impossible to comply with this general rule. Also the rule may be waived at the discretion of the High Master for celebrations, feasts and other festive occasions.) Children of seven years of age and over are given the privilege of attending normal Chapter meals, provided they are well behaved; which means fulfilling all adult requirements.

A daily routine for Processean children is as essential as it is for Processean adults. Such a routine is laid down by the High Master in accordance with Process requirements and policies, and adhered to by all concerned. It includes fixed times for such activities as eating, sleeping, working, playing and learning, which are strictly adhered to except on special occasions or in special circumstances as directed by the High Master.

Also, children are capable of working almost as soon as they are capable of playing, so a major part of treating them as far as possible like adults, is to give them a work schedule in accordance with their talents and abilities, and to ensure that they adhere

to it. Remember that children are given work to do, not simply to keep them occupied or out of trouble, but to give them an opportunity to make a valid and meaningful contribution on their own level.

Therefore take their work seriously, give them relevant and meaningful tasks to perform and expect them to perform them to the best of their ability. Do not allow them to get away with being 'only children' and therefore incapable of doing a proper job properly. And validate their work by acknowledging both the quality and the usefulness of it.

Outside Processean children are the responsibility of all Inside Processeans, exactly as other OP's are. However, until they are fourteen years of age - when they attain adulthood in Process terms and are considered capable of making all their own decisions - they remain the direct responsibility of their parents or legal guardians.

RANK AND STATUS

1. CHILDREN OF INSIDE PROCESSEANS

Under seven years of age

The child of an IP is Initiated and then Baptised as a Little Messenger with a Sacred Name (chosen by one or both of his parents), within fourteen days of his date of birth.

An IP child holds the rank of Little Messenger until he is seven years of age.

Seven to fourteen years of age

On his seventh birthday an IP child automatically reverts to the rank of Initiate. His Mendes badge is taken away from him, but he retains his IP status, his Sacred Name and his right to wear The Black.

If he so desires, he then immediately begins to work his way towards being Baptised again, this time as a Young Messenger. And to do so he must fulfil all the requirements for Baptism, including attendance of the First Progress, twelve evenings of the OP's Progress and six Telepathy Developing Circles, regardless of his attendance of these Activities previous to his seventh

birthday.

When he is considered ready by the High Master of his Chapter, he is Baptised as a Young Messenger, and given back his Mendes badge. If it is appropriate, he may be given a new Sacred Name, at the discretion of his parents and the High Master.

An IP child holds the rank of Young Messenger from his Baptism as such until he is fourteen years of age.

Fourteen years of age and over

On his fourteenth birthday an IP child once more reverts to the rank of Initiate. Again his Mendes badge is taken from him.

If he desires to be Baptised again as a Messenger, he works towards it exactly as he did after his seventh birthday, with the same conditions and requirements.

From the time of his Baptism as a Messenger after his fourteenth birthday, an IP may advance, according to his capabilities, to the rank of Prophet. He may not however be Ordained until after he has reached twenty-one years of age.

Notes on the rank and status of children of Inside Processeans

A. Reverting to the rank of Initiate at the ages of seven and fourteen, gives a Processean the opportunity to reassess his commitment to The Process at two crucial points in his development. And it also gives him the opportunity to reestablish that commitment, on his own decision, at each new level of awareness, understanding and maturity.

This applies to all IP's whenever they were originally Baptised. They must revert, fulfil ALL requirements, and then be Baptised again, at seven and at fourteen years of age.

2. CHILDREN OF OUTSIDE PROCESSEANS

Under seven years of age

The child of an OP Messenger, at any time between birth and the age of seven years, may be received as an Acolyte, Initiated,

and then Baptised as a Little Messenger, at the discretion of a parent or legal guardian, without having fulfilled any of the requirements laid down for these Consecrations.

The child of a Disciple, at any time between birth and the age of seven years, may be received as an Acolyte, Initiated, and then Baptised as a Little Disciple, at the discretion of a parent or legal guardian, without having fulfilled any of the requirements laid down for these Consecrations. Also, a Little Disciple is not required to tithe.

The child of an Initiate, at any time between birth and the age of seven years, may be received as an Acolyte and Initiated, at the discretion of a parent or legal guardian, without having fulfilled any of the requirements laid down for Initiation.

No child of an Outside Processean, who is under seven years of age, may hold a higher rank than both of his parents or legal guardian, nor may he become an IP unless one of his parents or his guardian becomes an IP, or he is formally and legally adopted by The Process.

Seven to fourteen years of age

On his seventh birthday, a Little Messenger OP or a Little Disciple, however long or short a time he has held that rank, reverts to the rank of Initiate. His Mendes badge is taken away from him, but he retains his Sacred Name, if he has one, and his right to wear The Black in accordance with his previous status. Also he is not required to change his accommodation.

If he so desires, he then immediately, or as soon as possible, begins to work his way towards being Baptised again, this time as a Young Messenger or Young Disciple. And to do so he must fulfil all the requirements for Baptism, including attendance of the First Progress, twelve evenings of the OP's Progress, and six Telepathy Developing Circles, regardless of his attendance of these Activities previous to his seventh birthday, but excluding 'Requirement 9' for Messengership with regard to schooling. (See B 96 OUTSIDE PROCESSEANS.)

If it is appropriate, a new Young Messenger may be given a new Sacred Name, at the discretion of his parents and the High Master.

An OP child may hold the rank of Young Messenger or Young Disciple from his Baptism as such until he is fourteen years of age.

Fourteen years of age and over

On his fourteenth birthday a Young Messenger OP or a Young Disciple, however long or short a time he has held that rank, again reverts to the rank of Initiate. Again his Mendes badge is taken from him.

If he wishes to remain an Initiate, he may do so. If, whether he was previously an Initiate, a Young Disciple or a Young Messenger, he wishes to work towards Discipleship, he may do so, regardless of the rank or status of his parents or legal guardian, fulfilling all the normal requirements, including the First Progress, regardless of previous Progresses and Circle attendances.

If after his fourteenth birthday an OP child, whether he was previously an Initiate, a Young Disciple or a Young Messenger, wishes to be Baptised as a Messenger, he may work towards it in the normal way, regardless of the rank or status of his parents or legal guardian.

3. CHILDREN OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Under seven years of age

The child of a GP, under seven years of age, may not normally be Initiated or Baptised, unless and until one or both of his parents or his legal guardian are Initiated or Baptised, or he himself is formally and legally adopted by The Process.

However the child of a GP, under seven years of age, who comes forward to be received as an Acolyte, entirely of his own free will, and having fulfilled all the requirements, including attendance at the First Progress, desires to be Initiated, may do so provided it conforms with the wishes of his parent(s) or legal guardian. He may not however be Baptised as a Little Messenger or a Little Disciple until he is seven years of age, unless of course one of his parents or his guardian becomes a Messenger or Disciple before that time.

An adult GP who comes forward to be received as an Acolyte may bring a child under seven years of age forward to be received at the same time. Then, as long as the adult is a parent or legal guardian of the child, the child may be Initiated together with or after (but NOT BEFORE) the parent or guardian concerned, without having fulfilled any of the requirements laid down for Initiation. The parent or guardian must of course fulfil the requirements for his or her own Initiation.

Seven to fourteen years of age

The child of a GP, who is between seven and fourteen years of age, may be brought forward, or come forward of his own free

will, to be received as an Acolyte. Then, provided the child fulfils all the requirements for Initiation, including attendance at the First Progress, and desires to be Initiated, he may do so provided it conforms with the wishes of his parent(s) or legal guardian.

Having been Initiated, the child may work towards becoming either a Young Messenger or a Young Disciple. He must fulfil all the normal requirements for Baptism into whichever rank, except 'Requirement 9' for Messengership with regard to schooling. When the High Master considers that he is ready for Baptism, he may be Baptised as a Young Messenger or a Young Disciple, provided it conforms with the wishes of his parent(s) or legal guardian.

Fourteen years of age and over

On his fourteenth birthday, a Young Messenger OP or Young Disciple reverts to the rank of Initiate. (See above: CHILDREN OF OUTSIDE PROCESSEAN Fourteen years of age and over.)

The child of a GP, between fourteen and eighteen years of age, may be Initiated, and Baptised as a Messenger or Disciple, provided he fulfils all the relevant requirements and is considered suitable, and provided it conforms with the wishes of his parent(s) or legal guardian.

Processeans of eighteen years of age and over may be Initiated and Baptised, provided that they fulfil all the requirements and are considered suitable, without reference to their parents or guardians.

ACTIVITIES

1. INSIDE PROCESSEAN CHILDREN

Under seven years of age

An IP child under seven years of age may attend any general public Activities and Assemblies at the discretion of the High Master and the Officer in charge of the Activity, provided that he is in the charge of an adult IP (fourteen years of age or over), who is considered sufficiently responsible to ensure the child's good behaviour during the Activity.

He may also attend internal and restricted (e.g. OP's only) Rituals and Assemblies (Morning and Evening Assemblies, Baptisms, etc.) on the same conditions. He may attend Progresses, Trainings and Meetings on the same conditions, and only if his attendance is considered to be valuable both to himself and the Activity.

Seven to fourteen years of age

From the age of seven onwards an IP child may attend any GP, restricted or internal Activities and Assemblies, with the permission of or on instructions from the High Master or the Officer in charge of the Activity.

He does not require to be in the charge of an adult unless so directed by the High Master. This will depend on his general behaviour and level of responsibility.

He should attend all internal Rituals and Assemblies, general Chapter meetings and Sabbath Assemblies, unless his general behaviour is not up to the required standard. (See Note A. below.)

Fourteen years of age and over

An IP Messenger of fourteen years of age or over is regarded as an adult in Process terms. Therefore all normal rulings apply to him as regards attendance of Activities.

Notes on Activities for Inside Processean children

A. Any Little or Young IP of any age, who impedes or obstructs the course of any Activity; GP, restricted or internal; with undue noise or performance, is at once removed from the room, either by the person in charge of him or by someone else appointed by the Officer in charge of the Activity. And he is only brought back if that person and the Officer in charge are both confident that he will not interfere with the proceedings any more. (This includes mealtimes.)

Children are not to be scolded or chastised whilst an Activity is in progress; that simply increases the distraction. Don't add to the negative effects of a child's testing; instead, as far as possible, eliminate them. The less 'performance', the more positive the outcome of the test, from his point of view and from yours.

OUTSIDE PROCESSEAN CHILDREN

2.

Under seven years of age

An OP child under seven years of age may attend any general public Activities and Assemblies and any restricted Activities and Assemblies for which he is eligible by rank, provided that he is in the charge of a parent or other OP adult who is considered sufficiently responsible to ensure his good behaviour during the Activity. He may attend Progresses, Trainings, and OP meetings on the same conditions, and only if his attendance is considered to be valuable both to himself and the Activity.

Seven to fourteen years of age

From the age of seven onwards an OP child may attend any GP or restricted Activities and Assemblies, for which he is eligible by rank.

He does not require to be in the charge of an adult unless so directed by the Officer in charge of all OP's of his rank (e.g. the Mother or Father of the Messengers). This will depend on his general behaviour and level of responsibility.

A Young Messenger OP should attend all Sabbath Assemblies and relevant OP's meetings unless his general behaviour is not up to the required standard.

Fourteen years of age and over

An OP of fourteen years of age or over, whatever his rank, is regarded as an adult in Process terms. Therefore all the normal rulings apply to him as regards attendance of Activities.

Notes on Activities for Outside Processean children

- A. Precisely the same rule applies to any OP child who impedes or obstructs the course of an Activity as applies to an IP child. He is removed at once.

3. MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC (CHILDREN)

Under seven years of age

A GP child under seven years of age may attend all general public Activities and Assemblies, provided that he is in the charge of a parent, legal guardian or other adult appointed by one of these, who is considered sufficiently responsible to ensure the child's good behaviour during the Activity.

Seven to fourteen years of age

Between the ages of seven and fourteen a GP child may attend all GP Activities and Assemblies. He does not require to be in the charge of an adult, but he must have the permission and approval (not necessarily written) of a parent or guardian.

Fourteen years of age and over

From the age of fourteen onwards a GP may attend all GP Activities and Assemblies without reference to his parents or guardian.

EDUCATION

INSIDE PROCESSEAN CHILDREN

Under fourteen years of age

An IP child should have regular learning periods of reading, writing and arithmetic, from one of the Brethren of his Chapter, from as early an age as possible (not later than his third birthday) up until the age of five. At the discretion of the High Master, an IP child under five years of age may attend a suitable kindergarten or nursery school.

At five years of age, if he has not done so already, an IP child should if possible begin outside schooling (day not boarding) at the most suitable school available (i.e. not racially, sexually, financially or religiously segregated, and not exclusively geared to any one life style). This he should continue until he is fourteen years of age and ready to become a Messenger.

It would be a mistake to isolate Process children from 'the outside'. And school is an excellent way of giving them the contact with the world which they need in order to know, experience and thereby understand it. It should not require effort to counteract any humanity-orientated indoctrination which might take place, and to put 'normal' human agreements and values into perspective for the child.

However, any such counter measures are to be done positively rather than negatively. (To contradict an absorbed human agreement merely solidifies it, as does all resistance of evil.) If a child absorbs a human agreement at school, such as (say) racial prejudice, and brings it home - as he undoubtedly will with several such agreements in order to test them against Process reality - we do not contradict it, we draw out from within the child his own Process reality in the area, which lies behind the human agreement, and then present him with the two different or opposite realities so that he can choose for himself. We need make no secret of OUR preference but we equally need not demand that he shares it. If he continues to prefer the human agreement to the Process reality; fine. He will learn in time - maybe the hard way though!

IP adults, particularly but not exclusively those directly responsible for IP children, should take an interest in their work and their experiences at school, to the same extent that they take an interest in one another's external experiences. IP children should receive no special attention over and above other IP's, but the attention should be geared to their particular activities and problems.

Just as all Processeans should be aware of the dangers of thinking that they are superior to other human beings, or that other human beings are to be despised, or pitied, or disowned, or in some way reduced or negated, so Processean children should, where necessary, be made equally aware of the dangers of thinking that they are superior to other children. This does not mean contradicting their evaluations and assessments, but helping them to expand their awareness and understanding. For example, to know the difference, particularly in themselves, between a real superiority and a protested superiority concealing its opposite.

Important factors in an IP child's education, in addition to reading, writing and arithmetic, are music, current affairs, history and geography. These should be taught in such a way as to arouse and maintain interest and stimulation, thereby creating a DESIRE to learn rather than a sense of duty.

Adequate opportunity should be given to all IP children for artistic expression, and talent should be unprotestingly encouraged.

Children should be given as little exposure as possible, without an actual ban, to the mass media (television, newspapers, etc.)

until they can be taught to have an objective view of these things rather than becoming indoctrinated by them and absorbing without question the values and attitudes which they project. (The out of trouble does not hold water!) Certain high quality educational, documentary and nature programmes on television may be exceptions to this; also objective and unbiased news reporting both on TV and in the newspapers.

Fourteen years of age and over

At fourteen years of age a Processean becomes an adult. But that does not mean that his education ceases. As with all Processeans, it never ceases.

Normally an Inside Processean ceases at this point to have outside schooling. But in certain cases it may be advisable for him to continue, depending on current policy and individual requirements.

GENERAL NOTES

A. In relation to all kinds of education and activity, bear in mind that children absorb things unconsciously from the moment they see the light of day - and most probably before that. And they understand and absorb things consciously at a much younger age than is normally recognised or allowed for. If your judgement is less than perfect and you wish to err on the positive rather than the negative side, assume that a child understands unless and until he proves that he does not. The normal assumption is the opposite, and because children are ultra-impressionable and tend to go along with the agreements with which they are surrounded, a general assumption that they do NOT understand, is likely to retard their development. Whereas an assumption that they DO, helps to accelerate it.

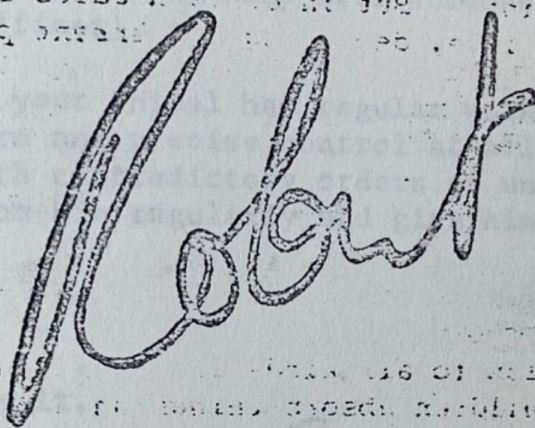
B. Equally, give children credit not only for responsibility, which is choice, but also for a SENSE of responsibility, which is the beginning of an acceptance of responsibility, which is the AWARENESS of choice. That too they have at a much earlier age than is generally recognised. Again, assume it, unless and until it is proved to be otherwise. This need not involve demand, if it is done with detachment and an 'in time' acceptance of whatever actually manifests.

C. Give Process children very firm and definite lines and standards of practical requirement, just as all Processeans

have. (Do not give them a MORAL code. This they will develop themselves from Process teachings, through an awareness of themselves, the Universal Law and all its subdivisions, and the behaviour patterns of other people.) They should be subject to the penalties that go with all infringements of the practical requirements, but not to any moral reprimand or righteous disapproval.

D. Finally, we can educate, which means literally 'draw out', our children, most effectively and completely through our own example. What we are, they will become. Lessons are more for clarification and preparation than anything else. What we say to a child is important, but what we ARE to a child is what, really matters.

As it is, so be it.



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6th April 1971

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